

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102/103 "as essentially taught by Wang". In making the rejection, the Examiner has simply stated that the applicants' claims recite a smart card system using "BlueTooth" technology, and has referred to Wang (US 6,175,922 B1) in col. 19, line 51. In so doing the Examiner states that BlueTooth technology "is a well known solution for short range wireless".

The Examiner's rejection is respectfully disagreed with, and is traversed below. It is noted that the undersigned attorney attempted to telephone the Examiner several times to clarify the Examiner's rationale for making this rejection, but was unsuccessful in reaching or speaking with the Examiner.

It is pointed out that the applicants acknowledge a pre-existing smart card reader that communicates via a Bluetooth connection at page 1, line 29, to page 2, line 28.

Referring to Wang in cols. 19 and 20, what is briefly stated is that a point-of-sale (POS) terminal (not illustrated) can have a Bluetooth communication port for conducting a transaction with a portable electronic authorization device (PEAD), see col. 19, line 66, to col. 20, line 3, and that a PEAD identification process can be conducted using a Bluetooth port, see col. 19, lines 48-51. A reference to a PEAD wireless port can be found at col. 5, lines 4-7, with regard to Figure 2. Figure 6B shows a preferred embodiment of the PEAD where communications are accomplished via an IR transceiver 662 (see col. 12, lines 34-36). Figure 9B shows that a communication link between a requesting device 906 and a server 902 can be an unspecified wireless communications link (see col. 15, lines 37-40).

In total, the disclosure of Wang that is specifically related to Bluetooth technology, and to wireless communications technology in general, is minimal, and adds little or nothing to the description of the pre-existing smart card reader system that is acknowledged by the applicants in the Background section of this patent application.

Further, it is not exactly clear where Wang discloses a smart card reader *per se*. It appears that the PEAD of Wang is capable of direct (wired or wireless (including optical)) communication with the POS terminal and /or with the server 902 via a transaction requesting device 906 (such as a PC, see col. 15, lines 19- 47).

Still further, a review of the independent claims of this patent application finds subject matter that is not disclosed or suggested by Wang. This being the case, it is not seen how it can be said that Wang anticipates the claims under 35 U.S.C. 102, or renders the claims obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103. For example, a reading of claim 1 finds that it recites a smart card reader that comprises:

"a card reader part for receiving a smart card detachably connectable to it and for communicating information between the smart card reader and the smart card, and

a short-range communications part coupled to said card reader part for communicating information using a RF wireless method between the smart card reader and a wireless communications terminal external to it, said short-range communications part comprising a processing unit for controlling the short-range communications part, wherein

(i) said processing unit comprised in the short-range communications part is configured to control, in addition to the operation of the short-range communications part, also the operation of the card reader part,

(ii) the smart card reader is configured to communicate with the wireless communications terminal and the smart card by using a set of protocol layers comprising at least an application layer and a transmission layer, and wherein

(iii) said short-range communications part is configured to receive an application layer level command from the wireless communications terminal and

(iv) **said processing unit is configured to convert the application layer level command into a transmission layer level command for a transfer to be performed to the smart card, and to transfer said converted transmission layer command via the card reader part to the smart card.**" (emphasis added)

A careful reading of Wang finds no disclosure that would anticipate or suggest to one skilled in the art at least the subject matter that is highlighted above. This being the case, claim 1 is clearly allowable over Wang, as are the dependent claims 2-9. Further in this regard, it is not seen where

the subject matter of at least claims 2-6 is expressly disclosed or suggested by Wang. If the Examiner believes otherwise, then he is respectfully requested to issue a second, non-final office action that more specifically sets forth his rationale for rejecting these claims in view of Wang.

The independent claims 10, 12, 13 and 14 are also drawn to allowable subject matter in view of Wang, as are dependent claims 11 and 15. For example, claim 10 recites in part that the smart card reader includes a card reader part for receiving a smart card and a short-range communications part coupled to the card reader part, where the short-range communications part comprises a processing unit for controlling the short-range communications part, and where:

"said processing unit comprised in the short-range communications part is arranged to control, in addition to the operation of the short-range communications part, also the operation of the card reader part".

Claim 11 further modifies claim 10 by stating that the smart card reader is adapted to receive a Transmission Protocol Data Unit from the wireless communications terminal over a short-range wireless RF connection, and to pass the Transmission Protocol Data Unit to the smart card.

Claims 10 and 11 are clearly allowable over the PEAD teachings of Wang. If the Examiner believes otherwise, then he is respectfully requested to expressly point out where Wang discloses a smart card reader that is constructed in such a way as to anticipate claims 10 and 11, or to render claims 10 and 11 obvious to one skilled in the art.

Claim 12 recites in part that the smart card reader includes the card reader part, the short-range communications part coupled to the card reader part, where the short-range communications part comprises an RF integrated circuit for transmitting and receiving a RF signal, and a baseband integrated circuit coupled to the RF integrated circuit for processing baseband signals. The baseband integrated circuit is claimed to comprise:

"a processing unit arranged to control the operations of the RF integrated circuit in addition to processing baseband signals, thus essentially controlling the

operation of the whole short-range communications part, wherein said processing unit comprised in the baseband integrated circuit is arranged to control, in addition to the operation of the short-range communications part, also the operation of the card reader part."

Claim 12, as well as independent claim 13, are clearly allowable over the PEAD teachings of Wang. If the Examiner believes otherwise, then he is respectfully requested to expressly point out where Wang discloses a smart card reader that is constructed in such a way as to anticipate claims 12 and 13, or to render claims 12 and 13 obvious to one skilled in the art.

Finally, independent claim 14 is drawn to a method for communicating information in a system that comprises a wireless communications terminal and a smart card reader located externally to terminal and connected via a short-range wireless RF connection. The smart card reader is adapted to receive a smart card detachably that is connectable to it. In the claimed method:

"the wireless communications terminal, smart card reader, and smart card implementing a set of protocol layers comprising at least an application layer and a transmission layer;

communicating between the wireless communications terminal, the smart card reader, and the smart card according to said protocol layers in such a way that the method comprises:

generating an application layer level command in the wireless communications terminal;

transmitting the application layer level command from the wireless communications terminal to the smart card reader over a short-range wireless connection,

receiving the application layer level command at the smart card reader,

converting, in the smart card reader, the application layer level command into a transmission layer level command for a transfer to be performed to the smart card,

transferring said converted transmission layer level command from the smart card reader to the smart card." (emphasis added)

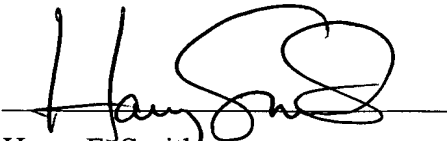
In order to anticipate claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 102, Wang must disclose all material elements of claim 14. Clarification is respectfully requested as to where Wang purportedly discloses the foregoing elements of claim 14, such as those elements that were highlighted above. It is also

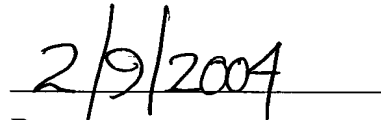
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submitted that Wang does not render obvious to one skilled in the art the subject matter set forth in claim 14. These arguments apply as well to dependent claim 15.

Claims 1-15 are deemed to be patentable over the disclosure of Wang. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and remove the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102/103, and to allow these claims as originally filed.

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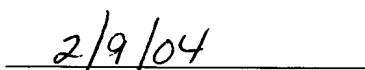
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